

SENATE BILL 365

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By: **Senators Garagiola, Astle, Benson, Colburn, Currie, DeGrange, Dyson, Ferguson, Forehand, Frosh, Glassman, Jennings, Kasemeyer, King, Klausmeier, Madaleno, Manno, Mathias, Middleton, Peters, Pipkin, Pugh, Ramirez, Raskin, Robey, Rosapepe, Stone, Young, and Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 17, 2012

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – ~~Volunteer Firefighters~~ The Charles W. Riley Fire and**
3 **Emergency Medical Services Scholarship**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing a certain fire and emergency medical services tuition
5 reimbursement program and establishing the ~~Volunteer Firefighters~~ Charles W.
6 Riley Fire and Emergency Medical Services Scholarship; establishing certain
7 eligibility requirements for a scholarship; authorizing the use of a scholarship
8 for certain educational expenses; ~~prohibiting~~ authorizing the annual amount of
9 a scholarship ~~from exceeding~~ awarded to be up to a certain percentage of the
10 equivalent tuition and certain fees of a certain institution of higher education;
11 requiring a scholarship recipient to maintain a certain grade point average;
12 providing for the duration of the scholarship; requiring scholarship recipients to
13 file for certain federal and State financial aid by a certain date; authorizing
14 legislative scholarship funds to be used for certain purposes; providing that
15 funds for the scholarship are as provided in a certain annual budget by the
16 Governor; establishing a ~~Volunteer Firefighters~~ Charles W. Riley Fire and
17 Emergency Medical Services Scholarship Fund in the Higher Education
18 Commission; directing the Commission to use certain gifts and grants for the
19 Fund in a certain manner; requiring the Commission to prepare a certain
20 annual report regarding the Fund; requiring a recipient of a certain scholarship
21 to work for at least a certain number of years as a certain firefighter or certain
22 rescue squad member in the State after completion of a certain program;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 requiring any funds remaining in the Charles W. Riley Fire and Emergency
 2 Medical Services Tuition Reimbursement Program after a certain date to be
 3 used to fund the Charles W. Riley Fire and Emergency Medical Services
 4 Scholarship for a certain academic year; requiring the Office of Student
 5 Financial Assistance to provide certain public notice of the establishment of the
 6 Charles W. Riley Fire and Emergency Medical Services Scholarship as a
 7 replacement for the Charles W. Riley Fire and Emergency Medical Services
 8 Tuition Reimbursement Program; and generally relating to the establishment of
 9 the ~~Volunteer Firefighters~~ Charles W. Riley Fire and Emergency Medical
 10 Services Scholarship.

11 BY repealing
 12 Article – Education
 13 Section 18–603
 14 Annotated Code of Maryland
 15 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

16 BY adding to
 17 Article – Education
 18 Section ~~18–605~~ 18–603
 19 Annotated Code of Maryland
 20 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
 22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – Education**

24 ~~18–605.~~
 25 [18–603.

26 (a) There is a Charles W. Riley Fire and Emergency Medical Services Tuition
 27 Reimbursement Program under this section.

28 (b) As provided in the State budget, any career or volunteer firefighter or
 29 ambulance or rescue squad member who is a resident of Maryland shall receive partial
 30 or full and complete reimbursement by the Office for tuition costs not to exceed the
 31 resident tuition rates at the 4–year public institution of higher education within the
 32 University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland University
 33 College and University of Maryland, Baltimore, with the highest annual expenses for
 34 a full–time resident undergraduate, for courses credited toward a degree in fire service
 35 technology or emergency medical technology.

36 (c) (1) The tuition reimbursement application shall be filed with the
 37 Office no later than July 1 immediately following the academic year for which tuition
 38 reimbursement is sought.

1 (2) Payment shall be made 1 year after successful completion of each
2 academic year.

3 (3) Payment may be made only if the applicant is still employed or
4 actively engaged as a career or volunteer firefighter or ambulance or rescue squad
5 member in an organized fire department or ambulance or rescue squad in this State.]

6 **18-603.**

7 (A) **THERE IS A ~~VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS~~ CHARLES W. RILEY FIRE**
8 **AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP.**

9 (B) **AN INDIVIDUAL MAY APPLY TO THE OFFICE FOR A SCHOLARSHIP**
10 **UNDER THIS SECTION IF THE INDIVIDUAL:**

11 (1) **IS A RESIDENT OF MARYLAND;**

12 (2) (I) **IS ACCEPTED FOR ADMISSION OR ENROLLED IN THE**
13 **REGULAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION; OR**

14 **(II) IS ACCEPTED FOR ADMISSION OR ENROLLED IN A**
15 **2-YEAR TERMINAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN WHICH THE COURSE WORK IS**
16 **ACCEPTABLE FOR TRANSFER CREDIT FOR AN ACCREDITED BACCALAUREATE**
17 **PROGRAM IN AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION; AND**

18 (3) **IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED AS A CAREER OR VOLUNTEER**
19 **FIREFIGHTER OR AMBULANCE OR RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER IN AN ORGANIZED**
20 **FIRE DEPARTMENT OR AMBULANCE OR RESCUE SQUAD IN THE STATE.**

21 (C) **A SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION:**

22 (1) **MAY BE USED FOR THE TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES AT**
23 **ANY ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION; AND**

24 (2) **~~MAY NOT EXCEED 33.3%~~**

25 **(I) FOR A CAREER FIREFIGHTER, MAY BE UP TO 100% OF**
26 **THE EQUIVALENT ANNUAL TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES OF A RESIDENT**
27 **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AT THE 4-YEAR PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER**
28 **EDUCATION WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND, OTHER THAN**
29 **THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY OF**
30 **MARYLAND, BALTIMORE, WITH THE HIGHEST ANNUAL EXPENSES FOR A**
31 **FULL-TIME RESIDENT UNDERGRADUATE FOR COURSES CREDITED TOWARD A**

1 DEGREE IN FIRE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL
2 TECHNOLOGY; AND

3 (II) FOR A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER, MAY BE UP TO 100%
4 OF THE EQUIVALENT ANNUAL TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES OF A RESIDENT
5 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AT THE 4-YEAR PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
6 EDUCATION WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND, OTHER THAN
7 THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY OF
8 MARYLAND, BALTIMORE, WITH THE HIGHEST ANNUAL EXPENSES FOR A
9 FULL-TIME RESIDENT UNDERGRADUATE.

10 (D) A SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT SHALL MAINTAIN A GRADE POINT
11 AVERAGE OF AT LEAST 2.5 ON A 4.0 SCALE.

12 (E) EACH RECIPIENT OF A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SECTION MAY
13 HOLD THE AWARD FOR 5 YEARS OF FULL-TIME STUDY OR 8 YEARS OF
14 PART-TIME STUDY.

15 (F) A SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT SHALL FILE FOR FEDERAL AND STATE
16 FINANCIAL AID BY MARCH 1 OF EACH YEAR.

17 (G) A SENATOR OR DELEGATE MAY AUTHORIZE THE OFFICE TO AWARD
18 ALL OR A PORTION OF THE FUNDS AUTHORIZED UNDER SUBTITLES 4 AND 5 OF
19 THIS TITLE TO ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS OF SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED UNDER THIS
20 SECTION.

21 (H) (1) FUNDS FOR THE ~~VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS~~ CHARLES W.
22 RILEY FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP SHALL BE AS
23 PROVIDED IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE COMMISSION BY THE GOVERNOR.

24 (2) (I) THERE IS A ~~VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS~~ CHARLES W.
25 RILEY FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN THE
26 COMMISSION.

27 (II) THE COMMISSION:

28 1. MAY ACCEPT ANY GIFT OR GRANT FROM ANY
29 PERSON OR CORPORATION FOR THE ~~VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS~~ CHARLES W.
30 RILEY FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP FUND;

31 2. SHALL USE ANY GIFT OR GRANT THAT IT
32 RECEIVES FOR A SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE ~~VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS~~
33 CHARLES W. RILEY FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP
34 FUND; AND

1 3. SHALL DEPOSIT ANY GIFT OR GRANT THAT IT
2 RECEIVES FOR THE ~~VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS~~ CHARLES W. RILEY FIRE AND
3 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP FUND WITH THE STATE
4 TREASURER IN A NONBUDGETED ACCOUNT.

5 (3) (I) AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR, THE COMMISSION
6 SHALL PREPARE AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ~~VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS~~
7 CHARLES W. RILEY FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP
8 FUND THAT INCLUDES AN ACCOUNTING OF ALL FINANCIAL RECEIPTS AND
9 EXPENDITURES TO AND FROM THE FUND.

10 (II) THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A COPY OF THE
11 REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS PROVIDED UNDER § 2-1246 OF THE
12 STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

13 (I) A RECIPIENT OF A CHARLES W. RILEY FIRE AND EMERGENCY
14 MEDICAL SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP SHALL WORK FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR AS A
15 VOLUNTEER OR CAREER FIREFIGHTER OR AMBULANCE OR RESCUE SQUAD
16 MEMBER IN AN ORGANIZED FIRE DEPARTMENT OR AMBULANCE OR RESCUE
17 SQUAD IN THE STATE AFTER COMPLETION OF AN ELIGIBLE PROGRAM IN AN
18 ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

20 (a) Any funds remaining in the Charles W. Riley Fire and Emergency
21 Medical Services Tuition Reimbursement Program after June 30, 2013, shall be used
22 to fund the Charles W. Riley Fire and Emergency Medical Services Scholarship, as
23 enacted by Section 1 of this Act, for the 2013-2014 academic year; and

24 (b) The Office of Student Financial Assistance shall provide the public with
25 notice of the establishment of the Charles W. Riley Fire and Emergency Medical
26 Services Scholarship as a replacement for the Charles W. Riley Fire and Emergency
27 Medical Services Tuition Reimbursement Program, including posting information on
28 the Office of Student Financial Assistance Web site and conducting outreach activities
29 to fire departments and ambulance and rescue squads in the State.

30 SECTION 2. 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
31 effect July 1, 2012.